

APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Please submit your completed application
by email to district.applications@austintexas.gov
by mail or in person to:
Office of the City Auditor
301 W. 2nd Street Suite 2130
Austin, TX 78701

*Application Period:
January 18, 2013
through
February 22, 2013*

**FOR ASSISTANCE WITH INTERPRETING KEY TERMS, SEE THE GLOSSARY
AT THE END OF THIS APPLICATION**

**MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS CAN BE FOUND IN
THE CITY AUDITOR'S INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE AND THE CITY CHARTER
AT WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE**

You must submit an electronic application to district.applications@austintexas.gov
or provide a signed application to the Office of the City Auditor in person or by mail at:

301 W. 2nd Street, Suite 2130

Austin, TX 78701

Submission Deadline: February 22, 2013

DUTIES AND TERMS OF SERVICE

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission duties include:

1. Conduct duties with integrity and fairness.
2. Conduct an open and transparent process to enable full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines to include an open hearing process.
3. Draw district lines in accordance with specific redistricting criteria in the Charter.
4. Adopt a final redistricting plan and certify the plan to the Austin City Council.
5. Issue a report that explains the basis on which the Commission made its decisions.

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Member terms of service include:

1. Members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) will not be compensated for serving, but are eligible to receive reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses related to Commission duties. Guidance on what is considered "reasonable and necessary" will be provided by the appropriate authority at a later date.
2. Serve a term of office that expires when the first member of the succeeding Commission is appointed in the year after the next national census is taken.
3. Members of the Commission will be subject to the following restrictions on their future activities:
 - For a period of **10** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **will not** be eligible to be elected to the Austin City Council.
 - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not** hold appointed office for the City of Austin.
 - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not**:
 - Serve as a City employee or as a paid consultant to the City of Austin.
 - Serve as a paid consultant to a member of the City Council in the council member's private capacity; or
 - Receive a non-competitively bid contract with the City of Austin.

**APPLICATION FOR THE
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

2013

Please complete this section legibly.

Name of Applicant: Casarez Ruth ----- Ms.
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

Voter Registration Number (VUID): 1140106350

Residence Address (must be a fixed location in the City of Austin):

1805 Alta Vista Ave. Austin Tx 78704
(Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Mailing Address (if different from Residence Address)

(Street Address or PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Contact Phone: 512.442.2042

Contact Email Address: rutcasar@gmail.com

Spouse's Name: NA
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

13-02-21A11:53 RCVD

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Please check YES or NO by each requirement. If you answer YES to question one (1), you may skip questions four (4) and five (5).

1. Are you a student enrolled in a community college or university in the City of Austin? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Do you reside in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Are you registered to vote in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Have you been continuously registered to vote in the City of Austin for the five years immediately preceding the date on which you submit this application? ☒ Yes ☐ No
5. Please indicate whether you voted in the following City of Austin general elections (or corresponding runoff if applicable):

City of Austin General Elections	Candidate Response
May 12, 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 14, 2011	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 9, 2009	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 10, 2008	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 13, 2006	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

I think I voted in all of these. RC

Conflicts of Interest

The information below is required to help the City Auditor identify any conflict of interest you may have.

Within 5 years of the application date, have you or your spouse:	
Been appointed to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been elected to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a candidate for a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county, or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a registered state or local lobbyist?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within 3 years of the application date, have you or your spouse been:	
A paid employee of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
In the last City Election did you or your spouse:	
Contribute or bundle one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in aggregate to candidates for City of Austin elective office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Personal Background Information

- Ethnicity: Mexican-American
- Race: Hispanic
- Gender: ☐ Male ☒ Female
- Age: (Please check your response)

☐ 18 to 24 ☐ 25 to 34 ☐ 35 to 44 ☐ 45 to 54 ☐ 55 to 64 ☒ 65+
- Education level: (Please check any that apply)

☐ High School Diploma or GED

☐ Some College (major _____)

☐ Associate's Degree (major _____)

☐ Bachelor's Degree (major _____)

☒ Post-Graduate Degree, indicate highest degree attained: (subject Juris Doctor)

Qualifications

Please describe your relevant analytical skills.

As an administrative law attorney since the early 70's, I have held numerous positions that demonstrate my analytical skills. On my return to Texas in the mid 80's, I became a staff attorney with the Texas Real Estate Commission. I reviewed complaints against real estate licensees to determine if the complaints had merit. I considered the allegations and investigative reports, analyzing them against the provisions of the Texas Real Estate Act to determine if formal complaints should be filed. Once decisions to file disciplinary actions were made, I prepared the cases for hearing, marshaling evidence to prove the allegations.

Later, I joined the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH), an agency that provides adjudicative services to state agencies. Initially, I was hired to implement the statewide Administrative License Revocation Program (ALR) which was to go into effect in January 1995. As director of that Program, I had to plan it from the ground up, i.e., find and establish offices & staffing for 14 offices throughout the state. That planning required projections related to budgets, caseloads, staffing, equipment & computer needs, etc. That process took an entire year. SOAH's ALR Program went into effect as scheduled and continues to operate to date.

Six or seven years later, I transferred to a different program within SOAH and became an administrative law judge (ALJ), leaving my role as administrator. As an ALJ, I conducted hearings of many types, some disciplinary in nature but others dealt with contract or workers' comp issues. In all of the hearings, however, I was required to carefully analyze the applicable law, the evidence & the arguments that were made in order to render a sound decision.

Please describe your ability to be impartial.

While working with SOAH, I conducted many hearings. In all of those, I listened with an open mind to all of the evidence that was presented as well as the arguments that were made. After considering the relevant, credible evidence, and the applicable law, I issued decisions in the cases. As a judge, I owed the litigants in all cases a fair & impartial hearing; thus, prior to hearing the cases, I entertained no preconceived notions or judgments. There were several instances, when I found that I knew an attorney or party in a case that was set before me. In those instances, I always made that fact known to the other side. If the other side objected to my hearing the case, I recused myself.

Please describe your appreciation for the City of Austin's diverse demographics and geography.

As a minority woman who attended law school when there were very few racial minorities or females in law school, I am quite sensitive to the need for diversity in the professions as well as in society in general. I grew up in East Austin, but attended high school in South Texas. I returned to Austin and enrolled at UT and graduated in the late 60's. I then attended law school in Denver, Colorado and lived there until the mid 1980's. When I returned to Austin, I noted the huge growth and population changes that had occurred while I was away. Austin now has very diverse & vibrant population. The City has also grown geographically in all directions. This geographic growth has required the City to consider specific environmental & social needs for its different sectors. While I have lived mostly in east and central Austin, I have an appreciation for the needs and concerns of residents in other areas of the City as I have family and friends who live throughout Austin.

I believe it is important to bring into the equation the perspectives of as many types of people in our City as possible. Women bring a different viewpoint than men; racial minorities see things differently than typical white men and young people think about things differently than the older generation. I currently work part-time with the Texas Legal Hotline which serves seniors 60 years of age or older or who are disabled and are eligible for Medicare. From my work, I often hear the concerns of seniors. On the other hand, I have younger friends and relatives who share their interests and concerns with me too.

Please provide any other information you wish to be considered during the selection of the most qualified applicants for the Commission.

I am from a working-class family from East Austin. I attended Austin public schools and the University of Texas. When I graduated, I taught English in a secondary school in East Austin before deciding to enroll in law school. After obtaining my law degree, I have practiced law for almost 40 years. During that time, I have worked primarily in the public sector. I also worked with Legal Aid in Denver. Now, I work with a non-profit organization that seeks to help & protect vulnerable populations. I believe the perspective I would bring to the Commission would help it to achieve its goals in drawing up representative districts for Austin.

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DISCLAIMER

By submitting this application, I understand that I am giving the City Auditor permission to release my information to the public. In particular, I affirmatively consent to the release of the contact email address I have provided.

If I am appointed, my address, contact phone number and contact email address will be included on the City of Austin's website.

I understand my application is public information under the Texas Public Information Act. The information will be kept according to the City Auditor's records retention policies.

I understand that my participation on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is voluntary.

I understand the duties and terms of service for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission as described above.

Under penalty of law, I swear or affirm that the preceding information in this application is in all things true and correct.

Ruth Casarez

Signature of Applicant



2/21/2013

Date

If submitting electronically, please type your full name in the signature box.

GLOSSARY

- “Bundle” means to raise money as an intermediary for a council candidate by soliciting contributions on the candidate’s behalf.
- “Campaign committee” in regard to an “officer, employee or paid consultant of a campaign committee” means a candidate or a specific purpose political committee supporting or opposing a candidate.
- “Candidate” for elective office means a person whose name appeared on a ballot, or who was a declared write-in candidate, in a general or primary election. It does not mean a person who merely announced a candidacy or only filed campaign finance filings. This definition attempts to construe the term against ineligibility, avoid ambiguity and disputes of fact, and use the term in the way most commonly understood by a lay person.
- “City” means Austin.
- “City elective office” means the office of mayor and city council member.
- “City employee” means an employee on the City payroll, including a temporary or part-time employee. The term does not include an independent contractor. This definition follows the definition in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code.
- “City office,” with respect to appointment, means a municipal court judgeship (including a substitute judgeship), and membership on a commission, committee, board, task force, or other City body appointed by the mayor or the city council. This definition follows the definition of “city official” in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code, excluding those City officials who are covered separately as City employees.
- “Community college or university in the City of Austin” means a degree-granting post-secondary educational institution, accredited by a recognized accrediting agency under the Education Code, that grants one or more of the following: an associate’s degree, a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree, or a doctorate, and that regularly conducts classes where the instructor and two or more students are physically present in a physical location within Austin’s city limits.
- “Contribution,” for purposes of calculating aggregate contributions to candidates for City elective office, includes all contributions to candidates for mayor and city council, and contributions to specific purpose political committees supporting or opposing those candidates.
- “County” refers to a county in which the City of Austin has territory.
- “County elective office” means an office that is voted on county-wide or an office that is voted on by the voters of a precinct drawn by a commissioners court.
- “Employee” with respect to a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid a salary by the political party or campaign committee.
- “Local lobbyist” means a person required to register under Chapter 4-8 of the City Code.
- “Non-competitively bid contract” means a contract which must be awarded as provided in Section 252.043 of the Local Government Code (“lowest responsible bidder” or “best value for the municipality”).

- “Officer” with respect to the “campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office” means:
 - the campaign treasurer of a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office;
 - the campaign treasurer of a specific purpose political committee that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office; or
 - an officer or director of an incorporated specific purpose political committee, incorporated for liability purposes only under Section 253.092 of the Texas Election Code, that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office.
- “Officer” with respect to a political party means a precinct chair, a county chair, or a member of a party executive committee under Title 10 of the Texas Election Code.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to work done for a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid monetary consideration for providing legal services, accounting services, public relations services, statistical or polling services, or political or campaign-related services or advice.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to the three year ban on paid consultancy with a council member, means having a “political or professional contract” with a council member as defined in this guidance.
- “Political or professional contract,” in the context of a contract with a council member, means a contract with a council member under which, in return for consideration, a person provided expert advice or personal services related to a council member's duties or to the council member's service as a council member, or provided advice about the conduct of campaign activities or holding office, or provided services to a council member that would be reportable on the council member's required campaign and officeholder filings under Title 15 of the Texas Election Code; Article III, §8 of the Austin City Charter; or Chapter 2-2 of the Austin City Code. This does not include a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “Political party” means a political party that appeared on the ballot in any of the last three general elections for state and county officers.
- “Professional contract,” in the context of a contract with the City means a non-competitively bid contract other than a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “State” means Texas.
- “State office” means an office held by a “state officer” as defined in Section 572.002 of the Government Code.
 - In the context of an appointment to a state office, “state office” means: the office of Secretary of State, an office of a state agency subject to appointment for a term of office specified by the Texas Constitution or a statute of this state; an office subject to appointment with the advice and consent of the senate; the position of executive head of a state agency; or a state office subject to election but filled by appointment because of a vacancy or because the office is newly created.
 - In the context of candidacy or election to a state office, “state office” means a seat in the legislature, an executive or judicial office filled in a statewide election; a judgeship of a court of appeals or of a district court; membership on the State Board of Education; or the position of district attorney or criminal district attorney.
- “Student” means a person actively enrolled in a community college or university on the date of the person’s application to the Commission.